



Box - m  
8 u

Mail Stop Petitions  
Commissioner for Patents  
Attn: Cliff Congo  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 7, 2011

Sophie Liang  
101 Anita Rd.  
Burlingame, CA 94010

USPTO  
RECEIPTS ACCOUNTING  
DIVISION  
2011 APR 14 PM 4:41

Dear Mr. Congo,

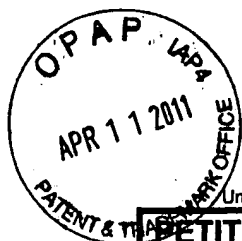
Per our phone conversation on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011; I have re-faxed an original Credit Card Payment Form on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. However, my payment was not accepted.

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, I filed a petition under 37 CFR 1.378 (b), my petition is dismissed for the reason of non-submission of a credit card payment form to cover the required fees. Enclosed you will find the original form 37 CFR 1.378 (b), copy of decision letter, and credit card payment form.

I am here to request a re-consideration of my petition. Your attention to this matter will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Sophie Liang  
Petitioner



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**PETITION TO ACCEPT UNAVOIDABLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF  
MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(b))**

Docket Number (Optional)

Mail to: Mail Stop Petition  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450  
Fax: (571) 273-8300

NOTE: If information or assistance is needed in completing this form, please contact Petitions Information at (571) 272-3282.

Patent Number: 6,561,084

Application Number: 09/944,976

Issue Date: 05-13-2003

Filing Date: 08-31-2001

**CAUTION:** Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number (or reissue patent number, if a reissue) and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application (or reissue application) leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

**Also complete the following information, if applicable:**

The above-identified patent:

☐ is a reissue of original Patent No. \_\_\_\_\_ original issue date \_\_\_\_\_;  
original application number \_\_\_\_\_,  
original filing date \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ resulted from the entry into the U.S. under 35 U.S.C. 371 of international application  
\_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8(a))**

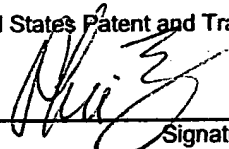
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is

(1) being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 OR

(2) transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300.

02-15-2011

Date

  
Signature

Sophie Liang

Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

[Page 1 of 4]

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

## 1. SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

## 2. LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

## 3. MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition, unless it was paid earlier.

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
Amount	Fee	(Code)	Amount	Fee	(Code)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	3 ½ yr fee	(1551)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$ 490.00	3 ½ yr fee	(2551)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	7 ½ yr fee	(1552)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$ 1240.00	7 ½ yr fee	(2552)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	11 ½ yr fee	(1553)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	11 ½ yr fee	(2553)

MAINTENANCE FEE BEING SUBMITTED \$ 1730.00

## 4. SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1) of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Fee Code 1557) must be paid as a condition of accepting unavoidably delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

SURCHARGE FEE BEING SUBMITTED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. MANNER OF PAYMENT

- ☐ Enclosed is a check for the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .
- ☒ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

## 6. AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE ANY FEE DEFICIENCY

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any maintenance fee, surcharge or petition fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ .

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

7. OVERPAYMENT

As to any overpayment made, please

☐ Credit to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

OR

☒ Send refund check

**WARNING:**

Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

8. SHOWING

The enclosed statement will show that the delay in timely payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that this petition is being filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The statement must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which the patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

9. PETITIONER(S) REQUESTS THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED.



Signature(s) of Petitioner(s)

02-15-2011

Date

Sophie Liang

Typed or printed name(s)

n/a

Registration Number, if applicable

101 Anita Rd.

Address

925-324-5838

Telephone Number

Burlingame, CA 94010

Address

ENCLOSURES:

- ☒ Maintenance Fee Payment  
☒ Statement why maintenance fee was not paid timely  
☐ Surcharge under 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1) (fee for filing the maintenance fee petition)  
☒ Other: PETITION FEE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."



Signature

Sophie Liang

Type or printed name

02-15-2011

Date

N/A

Registration Number, if applicable

**STATEMENT**

(In the space below, please provide the showing of unavoidable delay recited in paragraph 8 above.)

My husband, also the patentee passed away in 2006. I have inherited his estate subsequently. The patent is one of the inheritances. Recently, I decided to possibly market the innovation, and I searched on your website, and I came to aware that the patent has been expired for non-payment of maintenance fee since June 2007. I was not aware of the maintenance fee, and I have never received any notice of maintenance fee either.

I am here to request that the delayed payment of maintenance fee be accepted and the patent reinstated. Please consider my circumstances and grant me the petition. Thank you.

*(Please attach additional sheets if additional space is needed)*

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

## 1. SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

## 2. LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

## 3. MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition, unless it was paid earlier.

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
Amount	Fee	(Code)	Amount	Fee	(Code)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	3 ½ yr fee	(1551)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$ <u>490</u>	3 ½ yr fee	(2551)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	7 ½ yr fee	(1552)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$ <u>1240</u>	7 ½ yr fee	(2552)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	11 ½ yr fee	(1553)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	11 ½ yr fee	(2553)

MAINTENANCE FEE BEING SUBMITTED \$ 1730

## 4. SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1) of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Fee Code 1557) must be paid as a condition of accepting unavoidably delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

SURCHARGE FEE BEING SUBMITTED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. MANNER OF PAYMENT

- ☐ Enclosed is a check for the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

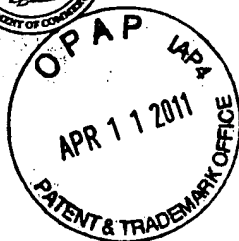
## 6. AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE ANY FEE DEFICIENCY

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any maintenance fee, surcharge or petition fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov



SOPHIE LIANG  
101 ANITA RD  
BURLINGAME CA 94010

**MAILED**  
**MAR 21 2011**  
**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 6,561,084  
Issue Date: May 13, 2003  
Application No. 09/944,976  
Filed: August 31, 2001  
Patentee: Richard Kenneth Lane

:  
:  
:  
:  
:

DECISION ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed February 15, 2011, to accept the unavoidably delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition under 37. CFR 1.378(b) is **DISMISSED**.

The above-identified patent issued May 13, 2003. Accordingly, the first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from May 13, 2006 through November 13, 2006 without surcharge, or with a late payment surcharge during the period from November 14, 2006 through May 13, 2007. No maintenance fee having been received, the patent expired on May 14, 2007.

37 CFR 1.378(b) provides that:

Any petition to accept an unavoidably delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

- (1) The required maintenance fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(e) through (g);

(2) The surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1); and

(3) A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

---

The instant petition does not meet requirement (1) above.

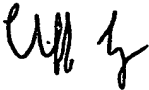
Petitioner has not submitted the required maintenance fee and surcharge, and as such, no consideration of the petition will be made on the merits. Petitioner referenced the submission of a credit card payment form to cover the required fees. However, the Office did not receive this form with the petition.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:           Mail Stop Petitions  
                  Commissioner for Patents  
                  P.O. Box 1450  
                  Alexandria VA 22313-1450

By FAX:           (703) 872-9306     571-273-8300  
                  Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3207.



Cliff Congo  
Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions





## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

SOPHIE LIANG  
101 ANITA RD.  
BURLINGAME, CA 94010

March 30, 2011

## NOTICE OF NON-ACCEPTANCE OF PATENT MAINTENANCE FEE

REGARDING PATENT NUMBER: 6561084

PAYMENT STATUS:

Payment Amount Received: \$ 2,000.00No charge was applied to your credit card account.Payment Year 3.5 (e.g., 3.5, 7.5, 11.5)PAYMENT RECEIPT DATE 03/28/2011  
(Mailroom Date Stamp)

## Your payment was not accepted for the following reason(s):

- ☐ 1. The maintenance fee for the above-identified patent was previously paid on \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ Information regarding the previous payment is stated in item 8 below.
- ☒ 2. The patent expired on 05/13/2007. See "Patent Expiration" section below.
- ☐ 3. The fee was paid too early. See 37 CFR 1.366(b). Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.362(d), the payment window will open for the above-identified patent on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ 4. Your payment was not sufficient to cover the maintenance fee and any required surcharge for the above-identified patent. An additional amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is/was required.
- ☐ 5. The above-identified patent was reissued. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.366(d), the reissue patent number and reissue application number must be provided.
- ☐ 6. The payment did not include corresponding patent and application numbers, and was not specially accepted.
- ☐ 7. The above-identified patent is not subject to maintenance fees. No maintenance fees are due on utility patents filed before 12/11/80. No maintenance fees are due on design patents or on plant patents. See 37 CFR 1.362(a) and (b). (The "Resubmitting Maintenance Fee Payment" and "Patent Expiration" sections below do not apply.)
- ☒ 8. Other: Previously filed petition on 03/21/2011 dismissed.

## Resubmitting Maintenance Fee Payment

The six (6) month "grace period" for paying the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent begins on \_\_\_\_\_ and ends on \_\_\_\_\_. In addition to the maintenance fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, a resubmitted payment filed in the USPTO during the 6 month "grace period" is required to include a surcharge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. (See "Note" at the bottom of this Notice.)

To avoid patent expiration, the maintenance fee plus any required surcharge must be resubmitted in a manner that rectifies all of the indicated reason(s) for payment non-acceptance and *must be filed on or before the date the 6 month "grace period" ends*. Send by facsimile to the Office of Finance, Maintenance Fee Branch at (571) 273-6500, or by mail to the following address: Mail Stop M Correspondence, Director of the USPTO, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, to the attention of the individual who has signed below.

## Patent Expiration

The date the six (6) month "grace period" ends becomes the expiration date of the above-identified patent if the required amount for paying the maintenance fee is not filed in the USPTO by that date. See 37 CFR 1.362(g). Expired patents may be reinstated if a petition as set forth in 37 CFR 1.378 is granted. If the above-identified patent has expired and reason number 5 or 6 above is the only reason indicated for payment non-acceptance, it is possible that the payment may be accepted if resubmitted with a petition as set forth in 37 CFR 1.377, rather than 37 CFR 1.378.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, contact the Office of Finance, Maintenance Fee Branch at (571) 272-6500. Please ask for the individual who has signed below.

Michael Bangura (571) 272-6365

Printed Name of USPTO Representative

[Signature]  
Signature of USPTO Representative

**NOTE:** All USPTO fees (including patent maintenance fees) are subject to change. If you are making a payment, visit the [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) website or contact the Office of Finance to verify the amount due on the date payment is to be made. A maintenance fee payment can be timely made using the certificate of mailing or transmission procedure set forth in 37 CFR 1.8.